GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3918
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2016
Iodized Salt
Hay Prof. Richard;Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

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(a) whether the Government has carried out any study to check the efficacy of the iodized salt being sold by several manufacturers for combating the rise in thyroid and other iodine deficiency diseases in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard;

(c) the details of initiatives taken up under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, State-wise;

(d) the number of persons who benefited through said programme, State/ UT-wise; and

(e) the action/measures taken by the Government to check the rising number of thyroid and iodine deficiency patients State/UT-wise?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) to (c): In order to prevent & control Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD), GOI is implementing National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) in all the States/UTs. Under the Programme the Iodine content of Iodized salt is being monitored at production level and also at community/household level. The testing for Iodine content of Iodized salt at retailer/consumer level is being done regularly by State/UT IDD Monitoring Laboratories as well as State Food Safety Authorities.
The important initiatives/measures taken up in all the States/UTs under National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) are as follows:-
(i) Iodated salt in place of common salt is being supplied to the various states/UTs.
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(ii) Standards and regulations for Iodized salt were prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. Regulation 2.9.30 (1)(2)(3) of Food Safety and Standards (Food Product Standards and Food Additives), Regulation, 2011 prescribes the standard for edible common salt including iodized salt. Regulation 2.3.12 of Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restriction on Sales), Regulation, 2011 restricts the sale of common salt for direct human consumption unless the same is Iodized.
(iii) Quality control of iodated salt at production level is being done through Salt Commissioner's Office.
(iv) Financial assistance to all States/UTs for establishment of Iodine Deficiency Disorders Cell and IDD Monitoring Laboratory, conducting district IDD surveys/resurveys, health education and publicity to create awareness about IDD, promoting consumption of adequately iodated salt and monitoring of iodine content of salt through salt testing kit at the household/community level.
(v) Information Education and Communication activities have also been intensified in all the States and UTs through Prasar Bharti, All India Radio, Directorate of Field Publicity, Song & Drama Division and Directorate of Advertisement & Visual Publicity.
(d): National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) is being implemented in the country for the benefit of the entire population.
(e): Thyroid diseases comprise spectrum of diseases including Iodine Deficiency Disorders. The resurveys conducted for Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) in various districts of the States/UTs over a period of time have clearly demonstrated significant reduction in Total Goiter Rate in the country. State wise and district wise Total Goiter Rate is annexed.
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